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ABSTRACT

Activities of the Southern Rural Development Center (SRDC) during the 1987-1988 fiscal year are described in this annual report. Meetings of SRDC task forces and their members are listed with brief descriptions of specific activities. Regional conferences, meetings, and workshops sponsored and co-sponsored by the SRDC are described. Other activities such as technical and printing assistance and the publication of various reports and documents are listed. (ALL)

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1988 Annual Progress Report

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SOUTHERN RURAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER
Box 5446 • MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY • MISSISSIPPI STATE, MS 39762

Staff

Current staff members of the regional center include the following:

H. Doss Brodnax, Director
Jerome L. Burton, Associate Director
Jacqueline F. Tisdale, Writer/Editor
Bonnie Teater, Administrative Secretary
Sandra Markley, Administrative Secretary
David Miles, Printer (Part-time)

1988 Annual Progress Report

Background

The Southern Rural Development Center (SRDC) is one of four regional rural development centers in the nation. Each center provides support to rural development efforts of land-grant university Extension Services and Experiment Stations throughout the nation. While located on the campus of Mississippi State University (MSU), the Southern Rural Development Center is jointly sponsored by Alcorn State University and MSU. Other regional centers are located at Iowa State University, Oregon State University and Pennsylvania State University.

The Southern Center focuses specifically on the rural problems of the region and supports the community development efforts of 29 land-grant institutions in 13 Southern states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

The SRDC receives funding through the U.S. Department of Agriculture Extension Service and Cooperative State Research Service.

The Southern Center, established in 1974, exists primarily to provide the best possible information and assistance to extension and research staffs within the South as they respond to rural development needs in local communities. This is accomplished through the following:

1. Provide a central point for regional information gathering, interpretation, analysis and dissemination.
2. Communicate research findings and successful extension programming ideas through conferences, workshops, seminars and publications.
3. Serve as a linking mechanism for improved communication between states.
4. Facilitate interaction between research and extension personnel.
5. Provide funding for development of programming ideas with widespread regional application.
6. Provide "seed money" funding for rural development research projects addressing priority issues in the region.

Organization

Effective regional participation is a critical factor in the success of the Southern Rural Development Center. The organizational structure of the Center was designed to permit active involvement of other states in program determination. To insure the opportunity for strong regional participation, four elements have been included in the organizational concept.

First, the Center is directed by a nine-member board of directors with each member serving a three-year term. The membership is composed of four representatives from Extension Services (three from 1862 institutions and one from an 1890 institution), four representatives from Experiment Stations (three from 1862 institutions and one from an 1890 institution), and one representative from the private sector.

The extension representatives are appointed by the Southern Association of Extension Directors and the Association of 1890 Extension Administrators. The research representatives are appointed by the Southern Association of Experiment Station Directors and the Association of 1890 Research Directors. The chairman of the board seeks nominations from every state Extension Service Director/Administrator and every state Experiment Station Director/Administrator for the private sector representative.

Dr. James R. Carpenter currently serves as Chairman of the Board. Dr. Thomas H. Klindt is Vice Chairman. Members comprising the SRDC Board for 1987/88 include the following:

Dr. Arthur L. Allen, Administrator
1890 Programs
University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff
Pine Bluff, AR 71601

Dr. Chester D. Black, Director
Cooperative Extension Service
North Carolina State University
Raleigh, NC 27695

Dr. James R. Carpenter, Director
Mississippi Cooperative Extension Service
Box 5446
Mississippi State, MS 39762

Dr. Lawrence Carter, Ext. Administrator
Florida A&M University
P. O. Box 320
Tallahassee, FL 32307

Mr. Jesse B. Holder
Louisiana State University
Agriculture Center
Box 25203
Baton Rouge, LA 70894-5203

Dr. Verner G. Hurt, Director
Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry
Experiment Station
Mississippi State, MS 39762

Dr. Thomas H. Klindt, Assistant Dean
Agricultural Experiment Station
University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN 37901

Dr. T. Roy Bogle, Assoc. Director
Cooperative Extension Service
Oklahoma State University
Stillwater, OK 74078

Dr. A. W. Snell, Acting Director
Agricultural Experiment Station
Clemson University
104 Barre Hall
Clemson, SC 29631
Retired June 30, 1988

Dr. Charles Laughlin
Associate Director
Georgia Agric. Experiment Station
University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602
Assumed duties July 1, 1988

Second, each participating land-grant university appoints an Institutional Rural Development Program Advisory Committee to review the work of the Center and make suggestions regarding how the Center's program of work can be more supportive and responsive to the individual institutions and their plans of work. Each committee elects a chairperson who meets annually as a member of the Southern Regional Rural Development Program Advisory Committee. Currently, 19 institutions are represented on the advisory committee, which makes recommendations to the SRDC board of directors concerning program directions.

Third, the SRDC continually seeks advice and guidance in determining program needs, program direction and program implementation from rural development professional groups such as the Southern Community Development Committee, the 1890 Community Resource Development Committee, the Southern Natural Resource Economics Committee, the Southern Extension Public Affairs Committee, and the Southern Rural Sociology Committee.

Fourth, the Center funds and provides support to teams of researchers and educators from several universities in an effort to concentrate on pressing rural problems. Through its involvement in projects that address issues such as job creation and retention, infrastructure development, alternative farming opportunities and leadership and human capital development, the Center establishes regional cooperation in gathering, summarizing and disseminating research knowledge about critical rural needs.

REGIONAL TASK FORCES - The board of directors of the SRDC approved the initiation of regional task forces to address critical problem areas affecting development in the South. The Regional Rural Development Program Advisory Committee identified four major areas in which task force initiatives were selected. The areas being addressed are closely tied to the established National Extension and Research Initiatives and Priorities. Forty-four task force members were selected from research and extension personnel throughout the region. The four interdisciplinary task forces representing 20 land-grant institutions in the region are highlighted below with member names and universities. Specific activities of each group are in various stages of formulation with implementation planned for the coming year.

Strategies for Job Retention and Creation in Rural Communities in the South - at the initial meeting of this group, a working definition was agreed upon: job creation and retention programs focus on efforts to improve the welfare of community residents through retention of existing jobs and the creation of new jobs through such activities as industrial recruitment, entrepreneurial development, service industry development and the development of new jobs for community residents (regardless of job location). Areas being tentatively investigated by the group include training materials/programs, IMPLAN, economic development materials exchange and regional research. Members of this task force are:

Gene L. Brothers
Alabama A&M University

Carolyn G. Carter
Louisiana State University

Edna Droz
Puerto Rico Agricultural Experiment Station

Larry Jahn
North Carolina State University

Lonnie L. Jones
Texas A&M University

Kevin T. McNamara
University of Georgia

David Mulkey, Chair
University of Florida

Albert E. Myles
Mississippi State University

Eldon D. Smith
University of Kentucky

Mike Woods
Oklahoma State University

Formulation of Alternative Approaches for Maintaining and Enhancing Small-Scale Producers' Roles in Southern Agriculture Through On- and Off-Farm Initiatives - at their first meeting, this task force attempted to solve the dilemma of who is a small-scale farmer? The group formulated a definition which included producers with less than $40,000 gross farm income. Within this definition twelve groups were also identified based on total income as well as reliance on farm income and career stage (beginning, experienced, retired). Four needs were identified for emphasis by the group: alternative enterprises feasibility, off-farm employment and linkages to agriculture, family and community resource inventory and research/extension/teaching. Task force members are:

Warren Couvillion
Mississippi State University

Jesse Harness
Alcorn State University

Dewayne L. Ingram, Chair
University of Florida

Stephen Lilley
North Carolina State University

Benny L. Lockett
Prairie View A&M University

E. Jane Luzar
Louisiana State University

Claude H. McGowan
Florida A&M University

John O'Sullivan
North Carolina A&T State University

Joel C. Plath
Virginia State University

Cathy Sabota
Alabama A&M University

Russell W. Sutton
Clemson University

Robert Zabawa
Tuskegee University

Alternatives for Leadership and Human Resource Development in Rural Communities in the South - members of this task force have reviewed on-going leadership activities in the South such as the Family Community Leadership (FCL) program. Areas that have emerged from the group discussion as needing regional focus include: the role of family and community in socialization, the lack of and/or limited resource bases, role of government structure in relationships and lack of effective leadership to deal with the ever-changing demands and needs of local communities in a democratic or voluntary setting. In an attempt to address the needs, the group is working on an issues/position paper, continued involvement with FCL, a human resources conference and youth in public policy. The task force members are:

Lionel J. Beaulieu
University of Florida

Nathaniel B. Brown
Fort Valley State College

John Burton
Auburn University

James Edwards
Florida A&M University

Simon Garber
North Carolina State University

Doug Gatchell, Chair
University of Georgia

Shirley W. Hastings
Mississippi State University

Edward Henderson
Oklahoma State University

Franklin D. Jackson
Alcorn State University

Romando James
Clemson University

Robert R. Soileau
Louisiana State University

Lynn White
Texas A&M University

Alternatives for Financing Infrastructure Development in Rural Communities in the South - recognizing that development of necessary infrastructure is critical to the development of communities and that financing said infrastructure is becoming more problematic, this task force identified eight issues or needs to address. Extension and research issues considered are: relationship between infrastructure and economic development, including quality of life; efficiency, equity and ability-to-pay for alternative infrastructure financing; cost/benefits of infrastructure development; extension programs for infrastructure investment alternatives; extension program for decisionmaking process for infrastructure investment; impact of federal, state and local policies on rural infrastructure; inventory of innovative state and local financing schemes for infrastructure; and inventory of different ways of service delivery. Task force members include:

Ntam Baharanyi
Tuskegee University

Rusty Brooks
University of Georgia

Rodney L. Clouser
University of Florida

Gerald A. Doeksen, Chair
Oklahoma State University

Mark S. Henry
Clemson University

Thomas G. Johnson, Vice Chair
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Danny A. Klinefelter
Texas A&M University

Joseph F. Schmidt
Mississippi State University

Lonnie R. Vandeveer
Louisiana State University

Ron Wimberley
North Carolina State University

ALTERNATIVE USES OF HIGHLY ERODIBLE AGRICULTURAL LAND - The SRDC co-sponsored this regional agricultural development conference. Over 200 people attended the conference in November 1987 in Memphis, Tennessee. Other sponsors included Land and Water 201, Agricenter International, Agricultural Stabilization Agency, Farmers Home Administration, Farm Foundation, Soil Conservation Districts, Soil Conservation Service, Soil Conservation Society of America, Southern Association of Experiment Station Directors, Southern Regional Extension

Directors, Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and U.S. Forest Service. The Center director served on the program planning committee chaired by H. A. Henderson of TVA. The conference program focused on state and national policy issues, especially as related to the conservation program portion of the 1985 Farm Bill; alternative crop enterprise opportunities for highly erodible land and developing strategy to implement needed changes with landowners/farmers. The Center printed announcement and registration brochures as well as final programs and folders. SRDC staff conducted all the registration activities. SRDC also distributed approximately 200 copies of the proceedings containing the conference papers.

THE RURAL SOUTH IN CRISIS - CHALLENGES FOR THE FUTURE - This SRDC regional conference co-sponsored with the Farm Foundation, in cooperation with the USDA Extension Service, Southern Legislative Conference, Council of State Governments, USDA Economic Research Service and USDA Cooperative State Research Service, led to several publications. Lionel J. Beaulieu coordinated the conference for SRDC in 1987 while on sabbatic from the University of Florida. Beaulieu edited a book of the same name, with content originating at the conference, that has been published by Westview press. All clerical work including typesetting, pasteup and design for the book was completed at the Center. The Center bought and distributed 200 copies of the book throughout the Southern region. Two other post-conference publications were prepared, printed and distributed by the Center: a tabloid proceedings and a special proceedings based on the case examples of applied programs.

FOREST MANAGEMENT AND USE OF MARGINAL AGRICULTURAL LAND IN THE SOUTHERN REGION - This conference was sponsored by the Southern Extension Public Affairs Committee in cooperation with the Tennessee Valley Authority, Southern Forestry Economics Workers, Farm Foundation and the Southern Rural Development Center. Four hundred copies of the proceedings were printed at the Center. J. Paxton Marshall of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University served as editor. Included are nine papers that focus upon forest management and the use of marginal agricultural land in the Southern states.

SOUTHERN AGRICULTURE IN A WORLD ECONOMY - The Southern Extension Public Affairs Committee (SEPAC) and the Southern Extension Marketing Committee (SEMC), under the leadership of Parr Rosson from Clemson University, prepared eleven trade leaflets to aid in understanding international trade and its impact on Southern agriculture. The SRDC designed the covers, printed the leaflets and will provide camera-ready copies to each institution in the region for distribution. As a follow-up to developing these educational materials, three committees, SEPAC, SEMC and Southern Extension Farm Management Committee (SEFMC), sponsored an international trade workshop entitled *Southern Agriculture, International Trade and You* in June 1988 with CICHE, Farm Foundation and SRDC as co-sponsors. The SRDC is providing copies of the leaflets and folders to participants at the workshop and printed the registration brochures and final programs. Also, to further support the technology transfer effort in agricultural competitiveness and profitability, the SRDC is publishing a proceedings of the workshop for distribution.

INTEGRATING EXTENSION EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR PROFITABILITY - The SRDC printed brochures and notebooks for this July 1988 workshop and will print the papers that were presented at the workshop. The workshop was sponsored by the Southern Extension Marketing Committee (SEMC) and Southern Extension Farm Management Committee (SEFMC). Emmit Rawls of the University of Tennessee was coordinator for the workshop.

TRI-STATE BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTERS CONFERENCE - The SRDC co-sponsored the April 1988 workshop with the Cooperative Extension Services of Tennessee State University, University of Tennessee, University of Arkansas (Fayetteville & Pine Bluff), Alcorn State University and Mississippi State University. The workshop was intended for bi-vocational ministers who serve the people of rural areas through the small church. The rural minister is a part of a vital support system for families who are experiencing times of stress in the rural South. The workshop was designed to provide insight into the problems facing rural families and the counseling alternatives available. Lionel Beaulieu, University of Florida, gave the keynote address with representatives from the clergy responding. The SRDC printed all registration, handout and resource materials for the conference and published an evaluation document afterwards. The Center director and editor served on the planning committee.

RURAL BUSINESS CENTER - Richard A. Edwards and Ronald D. Knutson of Texas A&M University continue work on this SRDC sponsored project. The project is developing a procedure for identifying communities that are most likely to become rural and rural-urban business centers servicing agriculture over the next two decades. The project will identify the economic, demographic and infrastructural characteristics of communities that are in the best position to survive and serve the needs of commercial agriculture in the next two decades; and will identify specific communities that are most likely to satisfy those characteristics. A breakdown of the data by qualitative and quantitative factors influencing development will help sort out factors influencing development and identify emerging rural business centers.

AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES TO STRENGTHEN AND DIVERSIFY THE LOCAL ECONOMY - Mike D. Woods of Oklahoma State University was principal investigator on this project sponsored by SRDC. Co-investigators were Larry Sanders and Gerald Doeksen, also of Oklahoma State University. A model workshop was developed for community economic development in the Southern region. The project team reviewed relevant material regarding economic development strategies for rural communities; developed workshop material including handouts, teaching notes, overheads, resource references and other support materials; and delivered the workshop on a pilot basis. As a result of this project, SRDC is publishing *A Guidebook for Rural Economic Development Training* for distribution and use throughout the region. The guidebook contains materials for use in designing workshops for local leaders seeking to help increase economic activity in their community.

EXTENSION COMMITTEE ON ORGANIZATION AND POLICY TRANSPORTATION TASK FORCE 1987 - As a result of a survey it conducted, the ECOP Transportation Task Force Sub-committee on Community Resource Development and Public Affairs compiled the *Rural Transportation Interest Sharing Network: A Directory of Assistance*. Donald L. Nelson, ES-USDA was coordinator for the directory. The SRDC printed 500 copies of the directory that lists information such as name, address and phone number, area of expertise, and materials, methods and techniques of the network members. The Center director represents the rural development centers on the ECOP Transportation Task Force.

ECONOMIC AND FISCAL IMPACT MODELING FOR THE SOUTHERN U.S. - SRDC sponsored this project under the direction of principal investigator Thomas G. Johnson of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (VPI&SU) and

co-investigators J. Paxton Marshall of VPI&SU and Lorenza W. Lyons of Virginia State University. To date, a workshop co-sponsored by Virginia Cooperative Extension Service and the SRDC has been held to acquaint participants with fiscal impact modeling techniques, with the use of at least one such model, and to help with the process of developing models for use in the respective states. Also a network of extension specialists, representing 10 states and 19 institutions has been established. Publication of papers from the networking effort will be published by SRDC later this year.

RESOURCE ACTIVITIES IN COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT - An interregional task group on Resource Activities in Community Leadership Development was formed with Simon Garber of North Carolina State University and John Burton, Jr., Auburn University, as Southern region members. SRDC, as an outgrowth of a community leadership conference and in cooperation with the other three regional centers and Canada, supported a survey of extension leadership development resources. The information was used in a bibliography entitled *Extension Leadership Development Resources: U.S. and Canada Bibliography.* It was published by the Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development and made available throughout the land-grant states.

POLICY WORKING GROUP ON GROUNDWATER QUALITY - A Policy Working Group on Groundwater Quality was formed to explore the potential of integrated research and extension programs on policy-related aspects of the issue of groundwater quality. The four regional centers for rural development provided support for the group's activities. The SRDC supported Leon Danielson from North Carolina State University and Roy Carriker from the University of Florida as representatives from the Southern region. Aided by seed money from the Centers, the Working Group was able to respond to an Innovative Public Policy Education Program RFP from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation and Farm Foundation. The successful proposal, funded for $400,000, was clearly a result of the exchange of ideas generated at the meeting of the Working Group and is an example of the Center's seed money funding policy at work.

THE ECONOMIC POTENTIAL FOR ALTERNATIVE FARM RESULTS ENTERPRISES IN THE SOUTHERN REGION - THE MUSCADINE EXAMPLE - W. Lanny Bateman and Carlton R. Sollie, with graduate assistant Janice Stenmark, all from Mississippi State University, were investigators in this study sponsored by SRDC. Renewed interest in muscadines, arising from interest in new products, led to a case study examining the economic potential of the product from the farm to the consumer. Cost of raw product, manufacturing costs and consumer acceptance under existing market conditions were estimated. Results indicated economic potential at the producer and processor level. Based on these results, a new industry developed in commercially manufacturing juice, other products and by-products. In addition to the case study, a preliminary baseline data set of agricultural production, crop mix, income and other social indicators of economic well-being was developed. A research publication based on the study was edited, printed and distributed by the Center throughout the Southern region. A second publication in the form of a fact sheet was also published.

ASSESSMENT OF ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE RECREATION AND TOURISM INDUSTRY TO RURAL COASTAL PARISHES - Co-investigators from Louisiana State University Steven A. Henning, Quentin A. L. Jenkins, Charles L. Shilling, Wayne Robichaux, Sadik Artunc, Walter Keithly and Michael M. Liffmann

have collected data for this study sponsored by SRDC. The project is designed to develop a formal approach to collecting an inventory of recreational and tourism resources for rural communities; evaluate available data from federal, state, local and private sources, identifying strengths and weaknesses of the data for use in assessing recreation and tourism potential as well as assessing additional data needs; develop procedures for determining perceived needs and interests of the local community related to recreation and tourism; and make recommendations for coordination and guidance of regional recreation and tourism planning and appropriate community action. The design and format of the inventory program is in the developmental stage. Commercial tourism businesses have been identified in Lafourche parish. Work continues on the survey instrument to identify local perceptions toward the development of recreational and tourism resources. When the project is completed, SRDC will publish and distribute the results regionally.

THE CURRENT ECONOMIC CONDITION OF FARMS, AGRIBUSINESS AND RURAL COMMUNITIES AND POLICY ALTERNATIVES FOR IMPROVING RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - James O. Wise of the University of Georgia is principal investigator for this project sponsored by SRDC. The general objectives are to determine the effects of recent changes in the agricultural economy on farms, agribusinesses and the rural community, and to examine alternative policies to promote farm income and rural economic development. A survey of agribusiness firms in an 18 county area in Southwest Georgia which is similar to other Coastal Plain areas in the South has been completed and the data stored on a computer file. The data received should indicate how the farm financial crisis has affected agribusiness as well as provide characteristics of agribusiness firms by type of business. As a result of preliminary data, a contributed paper entitled *Some Impacts of the Farm Financial Crisis on Two Agricultural Counties in Southwest Georgia* was presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Agricultural Economics Association. At the completion of the project, the Center will publish for regional distribution a publication based on the research results.

FEE FISHING AS AN ECONOMIC ALTERNATIVE FOR SMALL FARMS - Charles E. Cichra and Jerome V. Shireman, both from the University of Florida, are conducting this research with sponsorship from SRDC. Fifteen states in the Southeast are being surveyed for information on the status of fee fishing in their state. Objectives of the project are to determine the current number and location of fee fishing lakes in Florida and the current regional importance of fee fishing lakes in the Southeastern United States; to determine the demographic background of both operators and users of fee fishing facilities in order to determine who operates these lakes, who comes to them, and why; to determine what types of services are being offered and which ones are most desirable to their users; and to determine where fee fishing operations should be located and what types of services should be offered in order to maximize their success. Fee fishing operations are now being identified, interviews of fee fishermen are being conducted, and data entry is on-going. A final research report of this study will be published and distributed by SRDC.

IMPACT OF THE CHANGING FARM ECONOMY ON RURAL COMMUNITIES - The primary goal of this project, sponsored by the Center, was to develop a model to be used to quantify the impacts of changes in agricultural activity on the economy of rural communities. Secondary objectives included the following: 1) use the model to analyze the impacts of alternative socioeconomic and agricultural policies on the economic viability of rural communities in the South; 2) quantify the probable impacts of agricultural transition on rural communities; and 3) examine the

potential for and benefits of non-farm alternatives to support the economic viability of rural communities. Lonnie L. Jones and Notie H. Lansford, Jr. of Texas A&M were investigators with Mike Woods of Oklahoma State University and James Richardson of Texas A&M as cooperators. The final models were developed and the results incorporated into an interactive microcomputer program. The model was tested for sensitivity to various circumstances and to discover its limitations. The final report is being published by the SRDC for distribution along with the microcomputer program.

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT ISSUES IN THE SOUTH - Economic development issues in the rural South were addressed in this workshop sponsored by the Southern Natural Resource Economics Committee (SNREC), a regional information exchange group operating under the auspices of the Southern Agricultural Experiment Station Directors. Participants focused on clarifying development issues facing the rural South and on evaluating policy alternatives. Proceedings of the workshop were prepared and printed at the Center with financial assistance from the Farm Foundation.

DIRECTORY OF HOUSING RELATED AGENCIES IN EIGHT SOUTHERN STATES This directory contains the names, addresses and telephone numbers of housing related interests in eight Southern states. Copies were distributed by the Center throughout the region in cooperation with S-194 Regional Housing Committee and the Tennessee Valley Authority, publisher of the directory.

SYMPOSIUM ON MULTIPLE JOB HOLDING AMONG FARM FAMILIES IN NORTH AMERICA CONFERENCE - The SRDC supported the conference by sending five representatives from the Southern region. Tom Johnson of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University was a program participant. Stephen Lilley from North Carolina State University represented the Center's task force on "Formulation of Alternative Approaches for Maintaining and Enhancing Small-Scale Producers' Roles in Southern Agriculture Through On- and Off-farm Initiatives." Others attending and participating on the program from the Southern region were Tesfa Ghebremedhin from Southern University, Lionel Williamson from the University of Kentucky and Christina Gladwin from University of Florida.

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTE REVIEW PANEL An outside review panel was created to explore new ideas and to keep the Institute programs relevant to the region and serve as a national demonstration in rural and agricultural development. The panel is made up of public and private officials from throughout the country. The Center director was chosen and serves as a member of the panel.

JOBS EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE - The Center for Agriculture and Rural Development in cooperation with the Economic Development Administration held a national conference in October 1987. During this conference 20 rural development professionals met to develop a preliminary outline for a Rural Economic Development Handbook. In addition to the director, Gerald Doeksen from Oklahoma State University and T. T. Williams from Tuskeegee University, with support from the Center, represented the Southern region.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR - This leadership program provides professional development opportunities for extension state specialists, state advisors to Extension Homemakers and state leaders. The program's goal is to empower adults as leaders through home economics programs. The 1988 meeting preceded the National Extension Homemakers Council Meeting in July. The director was a consultant in planning the initial conference. The Center is committed to continued support of this leadership educational program.

PUBLIC USE MICRODATA SAMPLE ON LABOR MARKETS - The SRDC with the other three rural development centers supported and contributed to the development of this database. The data are archived in Ann Arbor, Michigan, for use by the social science research community. Through the Centers' support, the data are available at little or no cost to individual researchers and hopefully, wider use of the data.

SYMPOSIUM ON THE GREAT PLAINS OF THE FUTURE - The purpose of this November 1987 symposium sponsored by the Great Plains Agricultural Council was to assess forces shaping agriculture and rural communities in the Great Plains by the turn of the century, changes that these forces portend, and strategies to mitigate the adverse effects of change. The SRDC was one of the funding organizations with Ron Knutson from Texas A&M University and Luther Tweeten formerly from Oklahoma State University representing the Southern region at the Symposium. A proceedings entitled *The Great Plains of the Future* was also published and distributed.

EASTERN REGIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON RURAL INTERCITY PASSENGER TRANSPORTATION - This symposium was held in April 1988 and was co-sponsored by SRDC. The Center served as a publicity facilitator in the Southern region. The Symposium was designed for leaders of agencies and organizations concerned about the provision of rural intercity passenger service and about the linkages that exist with the communities and the nation.

KELLOGG LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR: A MULTISTATE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM - North Carolina A&T State University, serving as lead institution, will provide leadership in program planning and development to limited-resource audiences, who represent a significant number of rural residents. Participants will include small-scale farmers or rural landowners, single parents, public-housing residents, and displaced workers. The director serves as a member of the Policy Board for this project.

ADOPTION OF MICROCOMPUTERS TECHNOLOGY AMONG FARMERS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS - Lionel J. Beaulieu of the University of Florida is principal investigator for this research project sponsored by the Center. The project is nearing completion with the objectives being to: determine how and to what extent the diffusion/adoption of microcomputers in local government and on the farm is contingent upon the diffusion strategies used by public agencies serving them and upon the diffusion strategies of for-profit agencies; to determine the farms' structural conditions and constraints for access to the technology among different agricultural commodities and assess the potential consequences of differential rates of adoption on agricultural structure; to ascertain the characteristics of local governments that make access to and adoption of microcomputers possible; and to develop recommendations to guide public institutions that serve rural governments

and the farm community in the diffusion of this technology. Data analysis is complete. The final report is being edited for publication and distribution by SRDC.

NEW DIRECTIONS FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES - Low-input agriculture, diversified agriculture and rural community resource management and development were the focus issues of this conference sponsored by the National Center for Appropriate Technology in November 1987 in Memphis. SRDC sponsored Dewayne L. Ingram from the University of Florida as a representative of the Southern region. The director was a program participant, addressing the regional perspective of new directions for rural America.

NATIONAL CES SOLID AND HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP This national workshop was recommended by the National CRD Subcommitte and sponsored by the Extension Committee on Operation and Policy. It was held May 10-12, 1988, in St. Louis, Missouri. The SRDC supported the effort through a travel scholarship to the Southern states for one participant from each state to attend. The Center's editor was one of 79 participants representing 35 states.

NATIONAL RURAL STUDIES COMMITTEE - This committee, under the direction of Emery Castle located at the Western Rural Development Center (WRDC), has been funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to promote rural studies and provide a better conceptual framework for the analysis of problems of the rural areas. The committee is a multidisciplinary group investigating ways rural communities have been affected by social, economic, political and environmental events of the past decade. The Center director acts as an advisor to the group and attended the initial meeting of the group in Hood River, Oregon, in May 1988. The proceedings of the meeting were published by the WRDC, and copies distributed in the Southern region by SRDC. The 1989 meeting will be held in the Mississippi Delta region with SRDC hosting the meeting.

NATIONAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT PUBLIC POLICY WORKSHOPS - Under the direction of Ronald Knutson and Dennis Fisher of Texas A&M University, four regional conferences were planned to motivate interest in federal policy options and their consequences, to provide extension rural development and public policy staff training, and to provide a forum for presenting the educational material developed by the ERS Rural Economic Development in the 1980s and the Farm Foundation Policy Options for Vitalizing Rural America project. The Center director serves on the national steering committee for the workshops. The Center is a cooperating agency and facilitated publicity for the Southern conference to be held in October 1988 in Birmingham, Alabama.

FAMILY COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP (FCL) - The SRDC, with the other three region rural development centers, supported the initial meeting of the Family Community Leadership Federation Steering Committee in May 1988. The purpose of the steering committee is to further develop the mission of the Federation. The mission of the FCL Federation is to facilitate communications and networking among State FCL programs and others interested in the FCL concept through a regular communication network. It is to promote and strengthen FCL programs in all states, encourage new ways to strengthen the volunteer/staff team approach and to provide a mechanism to promote communication linkages and idea exchange.

THE GLOBAL ADVANTAGE OF THE SOUTH IN FORESTRY AND FOREST PRODUCTS - This conference, held in August 1988, was co-sponsored by the Cooperative Extension Services - Southern Region, U.S. Forest Service, Tennessee Valley Authority, Association of State Foresters, Farm Foundation and the Southern Rural Development Center. Jim Neal, regional forester, from the University of Georgia coordinated the meeting attended by approximately 220 persons representing 19 states. The conference focused on the potential benefits from increasing exports of Southern forest products and explored ways to expand the industry in the South. The Center printed an abstract book for the participants and is publishing a proceedings of the papers presented at the Conference.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SYSTEM NATIONAL INITIATIVES: FOCUS ON ISSUES - In support of the Extension System's focus on issues critical to the economic, social and environmental progress of Americans, the SRDC participated in three national meetings in March 1988 addressing four initiatives. The director took part in the Competitiveness and Profitability of American Agriculture/Alternative Agricultural Opportunities meeting in St. Louis, Missouri. The director and editor participated in the Revitalizing Rural America conference in Tucson, Arizona. The director, editor and administrative secretary attended the Building Human Capital teleconference.

WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE - Under the guidance of Mickie Swisher from the University of Florida, a regional committee was formed in an attempt to study the feasibility of, and if called for, to organize a regional conference to bring together both women producers and women agricultural professionals in research/extension/teaching. The committee is a multidisciplinary group with an interest in dealing with the very specific needs of women in individual agricultural industries. The Center editor participated in the initial meeting of the committee in Orlando, Florida, in July 1988. Doug Gatchell from the University of Georgia, chairman of the SRDC "Human Resource and Leadership Development" task force, was also in attendance. The SRDC supported travel for two additional committee members, Lori Garkovich of the University of Kentucky and Nancy Granowsky of Texas A&M University. Plans are underway for a conference to be held early in 1990. The Center will cosponsor the conference and provide in-kind support services.

IMPLAN - IMPLAN is a computer-based system developed by the USDA-Forest Service to provide a flexible technique to analyze a wide variety of situations and problems. IMPLAN is a system for developing nonsurvey input-output models. Its most common use is as an impact assessment tool. Since IMPLAN is an economic model that incorporates all activities within any given area, it can be used in many ways, such as to assist in plan development, to assess projects, and to analyze budgets. In cooperation with the other rural development centers, SRDC supported training for pilot testing the program. Mike Woods from Oklahoma State University represented the Center at the Ft. Collins, Colorado, training session in August 1988.

SOUTHERN RURAL SOCIOLOGY JOURNAL - The Center continues to support the journal in its founding years. A listing of the journal in a subscription catalogue was underwritten by the Center this year.

POLICY FORUM '88 - AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT : CONCEPTS AND CAUTIONS - This conference preceded the 1988 Southern Legislative Conference (SLC) in Lexington, Kentucky, and was presented by the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee of the SLC. The SRDC was a co-sponsor with the Center for Agriculture and Rural Development at the Council of State Governments. In addition to assisting with the meeting, SRDC is publishing a proceedings. The administrative secretary participated in and represented the Center at the conference.

1987 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING - The annual meeting of the SRDC board of directors met in Biloxi, Mississippi, in October, 1987, with A. W. Snell from Clemson University serving as chairman. James R. Carpenter, vice-chairman from Mississippi State University was elevated to chairman for 1988. Bill Golden from University of Georgia and Steve Murdock from Texas A&M University participated as representatives of the Center's Regional Rural Development Program Advisory Committee.

Information Dissemination

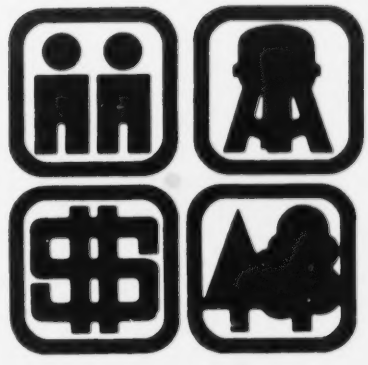
Recording and disseminating information about what is taking place and what is being established in rural development throughout the region and nation is one of the priorities of the Center. One way this task is accomplished is through a constant publishing effort including the following:

1. **SRDC Newsletter**--CAPSULES is intended as a regional newsletter designed to disseminate information in brief form. Each monthly issue of the newsletter is sent to approximately 2,000 persons working in community development, civic improvement, recreation, planning, government, education and a variety of organizations and agencies involved in rural development.
2. **Conference Materials**--Since the SRDC uses workshops and conferences as an integral part of its program, some staff time must be devoted to preparation and printing of such conference materials as pre-conference advertising brochures, programs, name tags, banquet tickets, registration folders, press kits, etc.
3. **Publications**--The Center has printed and distributed the following numbered publications since October 1, 1987.

No.	Publication
100	Agricultural and Community Development Interface, Proceedings, October 1987
101	1987 Annual Progress Report, October 1987
102	Rural Transportation Interest Sharing Network: A Directory of Assistance, October 1987
103	Responding to the Crisis in the Rural South: Highlights of Selected Public and Private Sector Initiatives, Proceedings, October 1987
104	Agriculture and Rural Development Issues in the South, Proceedings, SNREC #25
105	Alternative Enterprises for Farmers: A Case Study of the Muscadine, December 1987
105A	A New Agricultural Alternative for Mississippi Farmers: An Overview of the Muscadine Grape Industry, August 1988
106	Southern Agriculture in a World Economy, Trade packet, June 1988
107	Ministering to Troubled Families, Evaluation of a Multi-state workshop, July 1988

The Center produces publications in addition to the numbered series publications. This year, a 16-page tabloid offering highlights of the Rural South in Crisis Conference was published and distributed. Two earlier publications were reprinted by request. Two hundred seventy-five copies of the *Fundamentals of Business* notebook and 100 copies of *The Competitive Position of Southern Agriculture in a World Economy* were reprinted.

The SRDC is one of four regional rural development centers in the nation. It coordinates cooperation between the Research (Experiment Station) and Extension (Cooperative Extension Service) staffs at land-grant institutions in the South to provide technical consultation, research, training, and evaluation services for rural development. This publication is one of several published by the Center on various needs, program thrusts, and research efforts in rural development. For more information about SRDC activities and publications, write to the Director.



Southern Rural Development Center
Box 5446
Mississippi State, MS 39762

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